



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION RELEASES NEW VETERAN INDIAN TRIBAL LICENSE PLATES

The new Veteran Indian Tribal license plates will be available for qualifying South Dakotans on July 1.

Residents may apply for the Veteran Indian Tribal license plates at their local county treasurer's office or online at <https://mysdcars.sd.gov> during their renewal period. The plates will be available for the cost of \$10 plus a \$5 mailing fee. These will be a part of South Dakota's plate on-demand program. The plates will be printed after the application is submitted, and residents will receive their plates by mail within 10 business days.

"The Veteran Indian Tribal plates are an enhancement to the existing tribal plates, offering the ability to also be recognized as a veteran for serving and protecting our country in a U.S. military branch," Motor Vehicle Division Director Lisa Weyer said. "The plates are available to anyone who is a veteran of the armed forces—you do not have to be a tribal member."

The Veteran Indian Tribal plates will be available in seven different designs, which are specific to each tribe. The following tribes are depicted on the new plates:

- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Yankton Sioux Tribe

For a tutorial on how to order these plates online, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOZEWUzjqZ0>.

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ZIMMERMAN TOURS PINE RIDGE HOUSING PROJECTS

As a member of the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition (SDNHC), SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman had the opportunity to tour some of the construction projects in Pine Ridge last week and learn more about some of the innovative approaches and partnerships the Oglala Sioux Tribe is using to assist tribal veterans secure housing.

Secretary Zimmerman had the opportunity to visit with Joyce Allen, Deputy Administrator for Rural Housing Services.

Presentations were made on OST Partnership for Housing Homeowner, Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, and the Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing veterans project.

"Visiting the Pine Ridge housing projects was very enlightening," said Secretary Zimmerman. "Eagles Nest and Thunder Valley projects will help home ownership for tribal members, as well as our veterans and their families."



Secretary Zimmerman tours veteran's home.



Sec. Zimmerman visits with USDA's Joyce Allen.



Sec. Zimmerman, Mark Lauseng (Housing Development Authority, and Tim Potts (USDA).

SDNG ACTIVATES NEW CYBER PROTECTION

The South Dakota Army National Guard held an activation ceremony for their newest unit in Rapid City, June 9. The activation of Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174 is part of the National Guard Bureau's ongoing growth of cyber forces throughout the Department of Defense.

"Now there are four detachments in Cyber Protection Team 174 - one in South Dakota, one in North Dakota, two in Utah and our headquarters element is out of Colorado," said Staff Sgt. Brayden Nelson, intelligence analyst for Det. 2, CPT 174. "Realistically, we are a four-state (regional) cyber protection team."

Seven SDARNG members joined the 39-member team for CPT 174, which focuses on protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats.

The team can be called up by the president or governor to assist local, state and federal agencies' in protecting domestic critical infrastructure and to provide support to law enforcement, homeland defense, and defense support of civil authority activities in support of national objectives.

"Our mission is to coordinate, train, advise and assist mission partners in an advisory-type role to steer them in the right direction in the event of a cyberattack," said Staff Sgt. Mike Reiprich, senior security analyst for Det. 2, CPT 174. "We would strictly be an extra set of eyes for our mission partners in that advisory role."

Cyber protection teams are trained to standards established by U.S. Cyber Command to conduct Defensive Cyberspace Operations on military networks.

"Our team is not offensive and we won't reach out and perform offensive cyberattacks to any intruder or potential attacker," said Nelson. "We're there for defending the network and fixing it if an intrusion happens. So, we are preventative and then reactive up until the network is secured."

Detachment 2, CPT 174 is one of 10 new cyber teams provided to the Army National Guard. The U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve cyber forces are projected to grow to 41 units in 34 states by 2019.



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN HEALTH FAIR

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen participated in the Fort Thompson Indian Health Services Health Fair last week.

Other vendors included the South Dakota Highway Patrol, Avera, SD Department of Social Services, as well as healthcare and dentistry providers.

Bowen worked with over 30 veterans, as well as family members.



SOLDIERS DELIVER TIMBER TO SUPPORT RESERVATION COMMUNITIES

For 10 years, the timber haul humanitarian mission has been an important part of the Golden Coyote training exercise. The mission provides National Guard and Reserve Soldiers an opportunity to gain valuable training experience and provide a service to Native American tribal communities throughout South Dakota.

That support continues this year as units transport timber to the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Standing Rock, Cheyenne River and Crow Creek Reservations from June 12-20.

Members of the South Dakota National Guard's 200th Engineer Company used hydraulic excavators to load timber onto trucks to be transported by exercise units serving with the 821st Transportation Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve. Hauling lumber is an opportunity for the soldiers to train for their state and federal missions.

For these soldiers, the timber haul required them to drive on unfamiliar roads in a convoy to complete their missions at four different sites on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations.

The timber helps provide residents with wood for heating, construction, and ceremonial purposes.

The timber transported to the Native American communities not only benefits the residents, but also provides a unique training opportunity for many units.



GRAND OPENING HELD FOR VA CALL CENTER

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard attended the grand opening ceremony for the new VA Customer Care Call Center in Hot Springs yesterday.

The center has been open for almost two months and staff have been enrolling veterans in healthcare programs. Currently 48 of 120 positions have been filled. Officials are hoping to fill the rest of the open positions by October.

The call center, one of seven similar facilities across the nation, will handle some 40,000 phone calls per day from veterans requesting health care from the VA.

"Having a national VA call center in Hot Springs is vital for our economy and truly for veterans across the nation," said Secretary Zimmerman. "With visions to have over 100 employees working in the call center by this fall, the VA is ready to serve so many deserving veterans."



GOLDEN COYOTE PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCE RIVER CROSSING

Military units participating in the South Dakota National Guard's 33rd annual Golden Coyote training exercise experienced a river crossing operation on the Missouri River near Chamberlain, June 10-11. The river crossing signals the start of the two-week exercise hosted every June in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where units traveling from the eastern United States have the opportunity to experience float bridge operations.

The mission is executed by soldiers of the 200th Engineer Company, SDNG, and gives them the opportunity to practice their skills and gain experience working with units from across the country.

"We are rafting other units across the river so they can continue onto their mission for Golden Coyote," said Staff Sgt. Jenny Holzer, beach master of the 200th. "Different units come to the beach, we raft them across safely, and then our groups come back and we wait for the next unit who wants to cross."

When units arrive to cross the river, the raft crew guides their trucks onto one of four rafts. The raft commander then directs two boat operators to maneuver the raft across the river to the opposite shore. The trucks are then unloaded to continue on with the mission.

"This lets other units know what we actually do and if the situation arises in real life, they know what we are capable of," said Holzer. "Showing them that we can get them across the river if the interstate was [blocked] is a way that they can continue on their mission."

Golden Coyote provides participants an opportunity to train in an environment that may simulate what they might experience during a deployment.

"When there is choppy water, like today, we don't usually get to do this, so that experience is really taking a toll on our equipment and our people are getting the experience that they need," said Holzer. "We have had these situations before where the water was choppy and having this experience will benefit us when we go on a deployment."

A large-scale operation like this requires the engineer company to coordinate with everyone who plans to cross the river. The river crossing operation provides a unique experience for all those who participate in the operation.

"It is always fun, you meet new people, and you make new friends," said Sgt. Maria White, the 137th Transportation Company, Kansas National Guard. "It brings up moral and makes soldiers appreciate the motto: one team, one fight."



3RD ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MEMORIAL MARCH



Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Sioux Tribe will hold their 3rd Annual Bataan Death Memorial March on Friday, June 30, at 7:30 am. The march is in honor of all Bataan Death March survivors with special recognition for Winfield Thompson, Sr. and Louis Williams.

The March will be led by the Honor Guard and will start on BIA 700 South (Norbert Belonger's residence) and will end at the Pow Wow arena.



SMITH ATTENDS HOMELESS SUMMIT

SDDVA's Jeri Smith attended the 12th annual Homeless Summit in Oacoma last week.

Formed in 2000, the South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium is a statewide organization consisting of service providers, individuals, city/county governments, faith-based organizations and state government all working together to address homelessness in our state. The Consortium believes that housing and other basic human needs should be within everyone's reach in an affordable and dignified manner. Their vision is to empower homeless individuals and families to regain self-sufficiency to the maximum extent possible.

The Consortium was formed to access [HUD's Continuum of Care](#) funding, which has provided over \$17 million dollars of capital and operating funds to South Dakota since 2000.

Presentations at this year's summit included: homeless statistics, workforce services and opportunities, community engagement, working with landlords to provide permanent supportive housing, education services for homeless children, and development of a centralized and streamlined process for individuals who are homeless to access housing and supportive services.

Smith also represents SDDVA on the SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium's Veterans Committee and the Vets@Home group. The Vets@Home group is designed to bring together representatives of various agencies to work toward helping homeless veterans.



Upcoming Events

Jun 15-18—SD American Legion State Conference—Watertown—Ramkota

Jun 22-25—State VFW Convention—Pierre—Ramkota

Jun 28—Black Hills Veterans Job Fair—Western Dakota Tech

June 30—Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe's 3rd Annual Bataan Death Memorial March (starts at BIA 700 South and ends at Pow Wow Arena) - 7:30 am (CT)

Jul 3-4—State offices will be closed

Jul 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Building 145—Room 108—Fort Meade—10:00 am (MT)

Aug 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota

Aug 31—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair

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